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ND 2012-5-E

Gates, Nina

From: Charlotte/Paul [holmeshill@mindspring.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 11:39 AM
To: Gates, Nina
Subject: SCE&G bullies a small business legally!!!

Memo to: Public Service Commissioner, SC 3rd District, Randy Mitchell (803-896-5259)

RE: 3/12/12 article in the Greenville News included below for your convenience

I'm writing to you as my PSC representative to request a review of a complaint by SCE&G to the Commission about a seven-employee company from Conn. trying to do business in SC that caused it to choose to leave the state for lack of funds to fight a big corporation. As a result, 80 SC agencies/organizations lost a grand opportunity for establishing a SUSTAINABLE budget asset as well as serve as community leaders in this state known for its sunshine days.

Shame on SCE&G for foiling 80 grand opportunities. I consider it a form of corporate bullying by a big company toward a small business. The Public Service Commission should find a way to allow the installations by the small (7 employees) company that was going to install the FREE solar panels to the 80 community agencies who had contracted with them. Big corporations should not be allowed to scare away a small business, especially using a PSC technicality. Shame, shame on SCE&G. This action should be remedied.

Thank you for your consideration of this request to review and hopefully nullify the complaint so modernization can happen in SC.

Charlotte Holmes
864.643-2526

Copied from the 3/12/12 Greenville News online or page 6A in today's printed edition.

"With power bills averaging \$5,000 a month, Glenforest School was interested in an ambitious solar energy project that could save the small academy big money.

A New England firm told Glenforest that adding a solar component could cut the West Columbia school's electric bill by thousands of dollars.

What's more, the company was offering free solar panels through a federally supported program that encouraged renewable energy projects.

"This was critical," principal Chris Winkler said. "It would have saved us \$1,000 a month I could put toward the kids. Plus, I could have had the kids learn about solar energy."

But the deal fell apart after a legal fight between central South Carolina's largest power company, SCE&G, and the business marketing the solar program, DCS Energy Inc. Upset with the solar company's entry into South Carolina, SCE&G filed a complaint that prompted DCS to leave the state last fall.

The dispute left Glenforest and dozens of other nonprofit organizations in a lurch. And today, the disagreement is being seen as a lost opportunity to cut electric bills for charities, churches, private

schools and local governments in many areas of South Carolina. All told, about 80 contracts to provide free solar panels fell through when DCS Energy left the state, company officials say.

In the Midlands, those affected included Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church of Lexington, the United Pentecostal Church of Cayce and Lexington's Red Bank United Methodist Church. All had contracts with DCS but never got solar panels, according to company records and church officials.

Others, such as West Columbia's Brookland Baptist Church and the Harvest Hope Food Bank of Columbia, were negotiating to acquire the free solar panels when the deal fell apart, DCS records show. The town of Lexington also never received panels.

None of the organizations is known to have lost money — because the solar panels were free — but it hurt plans to cut their power bills by adding solar. Projected savings ranged from several hundred dollars per month to thousands of dollars.

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